[English]

Cultivable Land

4067. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large area of cultivable land in the country is lying vacant and unutilized;

(b) if so, the total area of such land;

(c) the details of various programmes launched by the Government to use such land for the agricultural purposes; and

(d) the funds provided by the Government to each State during 1995-96 for the implementation of such programmes, programme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) As per land use statistics, 1992-93 (latest available) there is about 28 million hectare cultivable area in the country (9.2% of the total reported area) which includes old fallows, cultivable waste and land under Miscellaneous Tree Crops and Groves. The cultivable waste land can be brought under cultivation by reclamation programmes.

(c) and (d) The details of reclamation of area and funds released by the Central Government to each state under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Alkali (USAR) soils during 1995-96 is as follows :

State	Reclamation of Area (000 hact.)		Funds released during 1995-96 (Rs. in Laks)
Haryana	9.92		157.00
Punjab	17.90		249.00
Uttar Pradesh	18.66		183.07
Gujarat	2.20	(Targets)	200.80
Madhya Pradesh	8.04	(Targets)	183.50
Rajasthan	2.00	(Targets)	26.60

Besides above, a World Bank assisted project on Sodic Land Reclamation in Uttar Pradesh and another EEC assisted project on Reclamation and Development of Alkali land in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are under implementation. The area reclaimed and money spent under these two project are as under :

Project	State	Area reclaimed in hectares	Money spent in Rs. Crores
E.E.C.	Uttar Pradesh	3163	17.39
	Bihar	290	3.71
World Bank	Uttar Pradesh	10332	34.69

Railway Consumers' Consultative Committee

4068. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board has dissolved Zonal and Divisional Railway Consumers, Consultative Committees, recently;

(b) whether the Board is taking steps to reconstitute the said committees immediately without any delay; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is proposed to reconstitute these committees for two years with effect from 1.10.1996.

[Translation]

Rent Charges for Waiting Rooms

4069. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minster of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the rules framed for staying of passengers in waiting rooms on the main railway stations;

(b) whether without making any additions in the facilities provided, the rent charges of waiting rooms at Shimla Railway Station have been increased by more than double; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Waiting rooms at the stations are for short duration use by bonafide passengers either waiting for the outgoing trains or arriving by the incoming trains and required to wait for catching the next train.

(b) and (c) No charges are collected for waiting in waiting room. However, the retiring-room charges have been increased at Shimla after renovating the same and providing additional facilities.

[English]

Price of Captopril

4070. DR. BALIRAM : Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether M/s. Wockhardt is selling 10 tablets of captopril for Rs. Twenty six and if so, the price recommended for this pack by the BICP in 1995;

(b) the date on which the recommendations was made by the BICP and the reasons for not acting upon the same;

(c) whether the price control order announced to protect consumer interests was used to protect the interests of producers;

(d) the details of the recommendations of BICP sent during 1994-95 and 1995-96 and not acted upon within four months along with the names of products and companies involved therein and whether all of them involved reduction in prices; and

(e) whether the Ministry had identified the officers responsible for the delay and if so, the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Recommendations in regard to prices of formulations based on Captopril, one of the drugs brought under price control under DPCO, 95 were first received from the DPRC Sub-Committee on 26.10.95. These prices were worked out on *suo moto* basis, on the basis of available DGHS data available to the Committee, in the absence of the notified price of the bulk drug Captopril. In the meanwhile steps were initiated for the price study of Captopril. Since normally the notified price forms the basis of the price fixation the recommendations based on DGHS data were not acted upon the prices of these formulations were reworked on the basis of bulk drug price notified subsequently on 3.4.96. The formulation prices have been issued on 23.8.96.

(c) and (d) On the same grounds, prices of formulations based on other bulk drugs like Ciprofloxacin, Cephadroxyl, Pentoxyphylline, Lynestrol, were not announced. This was a conscious decision and there was no delay.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Excavation of Stones

4071. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether several acres of land has been given on lease for the excavation of stones in Madhya Pradesh particularly in the Shivpuri district without environmental and forestry clearance from the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether several green trees have also been cut down due to the same; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh had forwarded a proposal for 15 stone mines in district Shivpuri involving 930.734 ha. of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The formal approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, has not been accorded to above mentioned proposal. However, on the request of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, this Ministry had allowed temporary permission from time to time for mining over forest area which had already been broken up. Breaking up of fresh forest area had not been permitted by the Ministry during this temporary permission, which has already expired on 30.6.96.

Wild Animals

4072. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the wild animals whose killing has been banned under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972;

(b) the other steps taken by the Government to preserve and protect these animals;

(c) whether the Government have received requests from the various State Governments that wild animals like neelgai, monkey, elephant etc., should be excluded from this list of check damage to the lives and crops caused by the such wild animals; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Killing of all wild animals covered under the Schedule I, II, III & IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is banned, except for special purposes which are specified under Section 11 & 12 of the said act.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to preserved and protect these animals are given in the statement attached.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State Governments have been advised to take action under Section 11 (i) (a) and (b) of the Act to deal with the problem causing animals to safeguard the lives and crops of the people.